AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A valved catheter, comprising a catheter tube and a compression sleeve, said catheter tube comprising ~~at least one~~ a first lumen separated from a second lumen by a septum, ~~and~~ the catheter tube having a necked portion formed ~~in~~ along a proximal section ~~end thereof~~, said compression sleeve being positioned around said necked portion~~, wherein said at least one lumen is biased~~ to bias the first lumen and second lumen in a closed position ~~at said necked portion by said compression sleeve, and wherein said at least one lumen assumes an open position when an attachable unit or accessing device is inserted through said necked portion~~.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently amended) The valved catheter according to claim 1 ~~2~~, ~~wherein said valved catheter is attached to~~ further comprising an attachable bifurcation~~, said attachable bifurcation providing substantially unobstructed flow of a fluid from said attachable bifurcation to said catheter tube~~.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Original) The valved catheter according to claim 1, wherein said compression sleeve comprises a compression ring and a compression wedge.

6. (Original) The valved catheter according to claim 5, wherein said compression ring is made of a metal, polymer or spring steel material.

7. (Original) The valved catheter according to claim 1, wherein said compression sleeve is made of silicone.

8. (Original) The valved catheter according to claim 1, wherein said compression sleeve is made from a material that has a hardness in the range of approximately 50 to 80 Shore A, and wherein said catheter tube is made from a material that has a hardness in the range of approximately 40 to 60 Shore A.

9. (Original) The valved catheter according to claim 1, wherein said compression sleeve is made from a material that has a hardness in the range of approximately 70 to 100 Shore A, and wherein said catheter tube is made from a material that has a hardness in the range of approximately 60 to 80 Shore A.

10. (Original) The valved catheter according to claim 9, wherein said compression sleeve is made from a silicone material that has a hardness of approximately 80 Shore A, and wherein said catheter tube is made from a polyurethane material that has a hardness in the range of approximately 70 to 75 Shore A.

11. (New) A catheter, comprising:

a catheter tube, including a first lumen separated along a length of the catheter tube from a second lumen by a septum, and a necked portion along a proximal section of the catheter tube; and

a compression sleeve positioned about the necked portion, including a reduced diameter section that directs a force against the first lumen and second lumen, to bias the first lumen and second lumen in a closed position.

12. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the material of the compression sleeve is resilient such that following removal of an inserted accessing device, the compression sleeve assumes its original shape.

13. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the compression sleeve comprises a compression wedge including a split compression ring.

14. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the width of the septum along the necked portion section is less than the width of the septum along an adjacent section of the catheter tube.

15. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the compression sleeve has a material hardness harder than a material hardness of the catheter tube.

16. (New) The catheter according to claim 11, wherein the compression sleeve has a material hardness in the range of approximately 50 Shore A to approximately 80 Shore A, and wherein the catheter tube has a material hardness in the range of approximately 40 Shore A to approximately 60 Shore A.

17. (New) A catheter assembly, comprising:

a catheter tube, including a first lumen separated from a second lumen by a septum and a necked portion positioned in a proximal end of the catheter tube;

a compression sleeve positioned about the necked portion to bias the first lumen and second lumen in a closed position; and

an attachable bifurcation having a portion configured for insertion into the first and second lumens such that upon attachment of the bifurcation to the catheter tube, the first and second lumens are open to fluid flow.

18. (New) The catheter assembly according to claim 17, wherein the material of the compression sleeve is resilient such that following removal of the bifurcation, the compression sleeve assumes its original shape effectively closing the first and second lumens to the flow of air and fluid.

19. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the width of the septum along the necked portion section is less than the width of the septum along an adjacent section of the catheter tube.

20. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the compression sleeve has a material hardness harder than a material hardness of the catheter tube.

21. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the compression sleeve has a material hardness in the range of approximately 50 Shore A to approximately 80 Shore A, and wherein the catheter tube has a material hardness in the range of approximately 40 Shore A to approximately 60 Shore A.

22. (New) The catheter according to claim 17, wherein the catheter tube comprises silicone or low durometer polyurethane.